

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the  
YEAR 1967.



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

K. M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Senior Public Health Inspector & Housing Officer

H. SPINDLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. W. J. BARKER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health & Sewerage Committee-----	Sewerage, Refuse Collection, Rodent Control and all other Public Health Functions.
Housing Committee-----	Provision and Improvement of housing accommodation by the Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hartismere Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1967.

There is no significant change in the Statistics contained therein, and I do not think that any special comment is necessary on any of the tables or figures.

As this report concerns a Rural District, which has always in the past had a special interest in Accidents in the Home, it will be useful, I think, to consider briefly the mishaps that may occur if poisonous plants or toadstools are accidentally eaten. Incidents of this kind are more common than is generally realised and in 1967 Guy's Hospital Poisons Reference Service had 500 inquiries concerning plants which had been eaten, mostly by small children.

Let us first consider Toadstools, or Fungi to give them their correct name. Cases of Poisoning after eating Toadstools are fairly common amongst the more gastronomically adventurous French, but are rare in this country. This is probably because cultivated mushrooms are plentiful and cheap. However when a case does occur in Great Britain it is usually a small child who is affected. A child will generally only nibble a small portion of a toadstool that he has picked, but a young infant left to play on the grass may well put a whole one in his mouth.

It is not easy to separate poisonous from harmless varieties of fungi. Popular rules such as saying that the skin can be peeled easily from a non-poisonous toadstool, or that a silver spoon added to the cooking pan will darken if the fungi are poisonous do not seem to be true.

The most deadly of the Toadstools is the variety very appropriately named the Death Cap. *Amanita Phalloides* to give it its scientific name kills 50 to 90% of those eating it. It can kill even after it has been cooked. The poison in it is very concentrated and only 1/3 of a cap has been known to kill a child.

It is very like a mushroom in appearance.

Fly Agaric (*Amanita Muscaria*) another fungus is not likely to be mistaken for a mushroom as it has a red cap with white spots. It causes a digestive upset which comes on about 3 hours after it has been eaten, but it is rarely fatal.

When plants are considered we have to distinguish between those which set up an Allergy in certain people and those which actually cause poisoning. Examples of the former are the person whose Hay Fever comes on as a result of his sensitivity to pollen, and people who come out in a rash after they have been close to a primula plant.

Actual poisoning may occur when children eat attractive looking berries such as Deadly Nightshade or Holly or Bryony or when adults accidentally include poisonous plants in the menu. These have included Rhubarb leaves, and even daffodil and tulip bulbs which have been mistaken for onions and peeled and cooked. The result was severe abdominal pain and diarrhoea. Potatoes which have turned green or become spoiled contain a substance called Solanine which is very irritating to the intestines and can cause damage to the nervous system.

The best way to avoid any domestic tragedies from poisonous plants and fungi is first of all to keep the garden free from plants that form picturesque but poisonous berries, and secondly to keep a watchful eye on a young infant sitting on the grass in open country to see that it does not put any lethal plant or fungus into its mouth.

The most commonly occurring plants with attractive poisonous berries are as follows:-

Deadly Nightshade  
Black Nightshade  
Holly  
Black Bryony  
Laburnham (all parts of the plant  
are poisonous)  
Cuckoo Pint  
Spindle Tree  
Yew  
Henbane.

Woody Nightshade  
Cherry Laurel  
White Bryony  
Caper Spurge  
Privet  
Thorn Apple  
Hemlock (roots are also very  
poisonous and have been  
mistaken for wild parsnip).

Do not take a chance with these; do not think "It won't happen to my family". Poisoning by these plants may not occur very frequently, but when it does it can be a terrifying experience or a tragedy. Every life is precious, but a child's life is the most precious of all.

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We have had no spectacular incidents or outbreaks or epidemics in the year under consideration, but the Council's Public Health Department has done a great deal of routine, unobtrusive, unexciting, but very necessary work which has contributed much to the good health record of the past year.

I should like to express my appreciation to all members of the Health Department and also to the other Officers and Staff of the Council.

The Public Health Committee have always been most helpful and encouraging and I am most grateful to them for this and also for their continued support.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

K. M. Harding,

Medical Officer of Health.



1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	96,486 acres
Population	16,160
No. of inhabited houses	6,029
Rateable Value	£332,625.
Product of a Penny Rate	£1,258. 17. 6d.

2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	103	115	218
Illegitimate	12	8	20
Total	<u>115</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>238</u>

Birth Rate

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	14.7
Comparability factor	1.14
Standardised birth rate	16.76
Birth Rate England and Wales	17.2
Ratio of local adjusted birthrate to national rate	0.97

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	--
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

Still Birth Rate

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	8.33
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	14.8

Infant Mortality (Deaths of children under 1 year)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	5	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	25.21
Infant Mortality rate England and Wales	18.3

Deaths of infant under 4 weeks

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	5	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

## Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	96	86	182
Crude death rate per 1,000 population			11.3
Comparability factor			0.86
Standardised death rate			9.72
Death rate England and Wales			11.2
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate.			0.87

## Causes of death

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
			<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	1	12	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	10	17	20
Leukaemia, all types	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	2	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	13	21	34	28
Coronary disease, angina	21	7	28	39
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1	1
Other heart disease	10	15	25	20
Other circulatory diseases	5	2	7	6
Influenza	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	9	2	11	24
Bronchitis	2	3	5	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	4	4
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	12	17	13
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1	2
All other accidents	3	1	4	4
Suicide	-	-	-	1
	<u>96</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>192</u>

## Cancer

There were 38 deaths from Cancer in 1967, one more than for the year 1966.

Vital Statistics - Summary for past 5 years

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales, 1967</u>
Population	16,210	16,100	16,120	16,100	16,160	
Live Births	254	254	202	198	238	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.68	15.67	12.53	12.30	14.7	
Standardised Birth Rate	17.87	17.86	14.28	14.02	16.76	17.2
Deaths of infants under 1 year	2	4	3	6	6	
Infant Mortality Rate	7.88	15.75	14.85	30.30	25.21	18.3
Deaths	179	170	203	192	182	
Crude Death Rate	11.04	10.49	12.59	11.93	11.3	
Standardised Death Rate	9.60	9.12	10.57	10.26	9.72	11.2



Monthly Notification of Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	1	-	-	-	14
Measles	48	30	15	30	26	8	4	1	-	-	1	14	177
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	8	19	8	-	-	-	-	-	35
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	5
Salmonella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	48	31	16	30	34	30	18	8	1	1	2	14	233

Notifiable Diseases - Age Distribution

	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	4	1	7	1	-	-	-	-	14
Measles	5	22	35	92	18	2	3	-	-	177
Dysentery	2	-	-	14	6	1	10	-	2	35
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	5
Salmonella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	26	37	114	25	3	15	-	5	233

Notifiable Diseases - Summary for past 5 years

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Scarlet Fever	8	7	25	6	-
Whooping Cough	5	8	14	5	14
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	281	152	32	161	177
Pneumonia	18	4	4	6	5
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	2	1	4	2	1
Infective Hepatitis	-	2	1	-	-
Salmonella Typhi-Murium	-	-	-	-	-

4. VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS (Figures kindly supplied by the  
County Medical Officer)

(a) Vaccinations against Smallpox

Primary	117
Re-vaccination	8

(b) Immunisations

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis/Polio	-	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	172	104
Diphtheria/Pertussis	-	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus	2	132
Diphtheria	-	-
Pertussis	-	-
Tetanus	17	46
Salk Poliomyelitis	-	-
Sabin Poliomyelitis	175	182

5. TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	
Cases on register at 1.1.67.	18	7	20	6	51
Primary Notifications	-	-	-	1	1
Transfers in	1	-	-	-	1
	19	7	20	7	53
<u>Cases taken off</u>					
<u>Register in 1967</u>					
Deaths	1	-	-	-	1
Recovered	5	1	6	-	12
Removed from District	1	-	-	-	1
Re-diagnosed non T.B.	-	-	-	-	-
Total removed	7	1	6	-	14
No. of cases remaining on Register at 31.12.67.	12	6	14	7	39

Tuberculosis - Statistical Summary for Past 5 years

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Number added to Register by Primary Notifications -					
(a) Pulmonary	3	5	2	-	-
(b) Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	1
Total number added to Register	4	5	2	1	2



6. WATER SUPPLY

Water Examination

Well Water - 2 samples were taken during the year, <sup>1</sup> of which was found to be satisfactory.

Mains Supply - Routine samples were taken in different parishes and also at source (Redgrave Headworks). All reports showed the findings to be excellent.

Well Water Cyanosis

During the year the County Medical Officer notified cases of women due to be confined:-

(a) Not receiving mains water	3
(b) Type of water supply not known	46
(c) Total	49

These were investigated and as a result 3 samples were taken and submitted for a report on Nitrate Content and found to be satisfactory.

7. SEWERAGE

The following areas have public sewers:-

Bacton  
Botesdale  
Fressingfield  
Gislingham  
Horham  
Hoxne  
Laxfield  
Mendlesham  
Metfield  
Palgrave  
Redgrave  
Rickingham Superior.  
Stradbroke.  
Weybread  
Wyverstone  
Yaxley.

The following have contracts for work proceeding:-

Finningham  
Cotton  
Wickham Skeith.

Schemes are now being prepared for:-

Mendham  
Occold  
Thorndon.

An extension to the sewer is being prepared for:-

Gislingham.

8. MILK DEALERS LICENCES

There are now eight licences issued by the County Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963, enabling persons to sell prepacked milk from an approved source in this district.

9. MILK SAMPLING

Statutory - 22 samples taken.

Chemical Analysis - 15 samples taken.

Biologicals - 36 samples taken.

Antibiotics - 69 samples taken.

In all cases the results were satisfactory.

10. FOOD INSPECTION

135 cattle were killed in the one licensed slaughter house during the year and 100% inspection of carcasses was carried out. No carcasses were condemned which again shows the first class quality of meat handled.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:-

14 lbs. Steers liver	- Abscess.
47 lbs. Steers liver	- Cirrhosis.
10 lbs. Cooked Boneless Ham	- Decomposition.
6 lbs. Corned Beef	- Decomposition.

11. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

No action was taken under this Act.

12. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

No. of factories	-	53.
No. of inspections made	-	65.
No. of defects found	-	5.
No. of defects remedied	-	5.



POULTRY PROCESSING 1967

	<u>Eviscerated</u>			<u>Uneviscerated</u>			<u>TOTALS</u>		
	<u>Processed</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Rejected</u>		<u>Processed</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Rejected</u>		<u>Processed</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	
		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>Est. Weight Tons.</u>
Capons	20,995	168	0.800	0.562	13,980	81	0.579	34,975	0.712
Chickens	786,224	2,697	0.343	4.696	265,706	1,344	0.505	1,051,930	0.384
Hens	-	-	-	-	308,468	2,671	0.865	308,468	0.865
Turkeys	41,821	31	0.001	0.139	24,514	14	0.001	66,335	0.001
Ducks*	104,000	-	-	-	156,000	-	-	260,000	0.400
Geese	5,000	40	0.800	0.165	15,002	-	Nil	20,002	Neg.
								1,741,710	0.464
								8,086	16,644

\* Separate figures for Eviscerated and Uneviscerated not available.

